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FBI vendetta against Dallas police claim

Associated Press

DALLAS — Former FBI director J. Edgar Hoover conducted a vendetta against the Dallas Police Department for more than two years after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated here, a Dallas newspaper says.

The *Dallas Morning News*, quoting FBI documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, said in its Tuesday editions that then-Dallas Mayor Erik Jonsson assured Hoover in early 1966 he would "immediately instruct the city manager to have a stern talk" with then-Police Chief Jesse Curry.

Curry resigned less than a month later, citing an increase in blood pressure resulting from "the continued pressures and tensions of the office."

He died of heart problems last June 22.

Within months of Curry's resignation, the newspaper said, FBI agents returned to their posts as instructors at the Dallas Police Academy after an unofficial boycott of more than two years. The FBI invited the first Dallas officer in more than two years to attend the FBI National Academy in Washington.

In 1964 and 1965, the *News* reported, Hoover ordered Dallas FBI agent-in-charge J. Gordon Shanklin to repeatedly reject Curry's requests for resumed FBI training for his officers.

Shanklin was instructed to tell the chief FBI agents "just don't have the manpower to take on additional training commitments at this time," FBI documents said.

The cessation of assistance was triggered by a statement attributed to FBI agent James P. Hosty Jr. by Dallas police Lt. Jack Revill the day of the assassination, FBI memos show.

Revill, now assistant chief, said at the time that Hosty told him the FBI knew before the assassination that Lee Harvey Oswald was "capable of committing the assassination of President Kennedy." Hosty, however, later denied making the statement.

The next day, Curry said on television the FBI wanted to cover up information that it was aware of Oswald's presence in Dallas and had not notified police. He retracted the statement after Shanklin challenged him to prove it.

Later in 1964, Curry wrote Shanklin a letter stating that no FBI source "ever asked me to 'cover up' the fact that the FBI knew Lee Harvey Oswald was in Dallas" before the assassination. The next day, Hoover wrote a memo instructing an aide to "caution Shanklin that any contacts with Curry . . . in the future be most circumspect."

On April 28, 1964, Hoover had written Shanklin that he "and personnel of your office are to deal at arm's length with Dallas Police Department personnel. We will not extend training assistance, nor will we accept candidates from that department to the (FBI) National Academy."

On Jan. 19, 1966, Hoover wrote Shanklin, the Dallas mayor visited his office and "asked to discuss the serious breach between this bureau and the Dallas Police Department, if one exists."

"I informed Mayor Jonsson that a breach in relations with Chief of Police Curry and his department does exist," Hoover wrote. "I made it perfectly clear actions and statements by Chief Curry and some of his personnel with respect to the bu they are incom and, in some in

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Hoover's vendetta targeted Dallas police, memos reveal

J. Edgar Hoover . . . "Deal at arm's length with Dallas police."

By EARL GOLZ

FBI documents obtained recently detail a vendetta FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover conducted against the Dallas Police Department from the time President John F. Kennedy was assassinated until Police Chief Jesse Curry resigned more than two years later.

The documents, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, show that Dallas Mayor Erik Jonsson met with Hoover in the director's office in early 1966 and assured Hoover he would "immediately instruct the city manager to have a stern talk" with Curry.

Less than a month later, in February 1966, Curry resigned, citing an increase in blood pressure resulting from "the continued pressures and tensions of the office." Curry, 66, died of heart problems last June 22.

Within months of Curry's resignation, FBI agents returned to their posts as instructors at the Dallas Police Academy after an unofficial boycott of more than two years, and the FBI invited the first Dallas officer in more than two years to attend the FBI National Academy in Washington.

Under orders from Hoover in 1964 and 1965, Dallas FBI agent-in-charge J. Gordon Shanklin repeatedly rejected Curry's requests for a resumption of FBI training for Dallas policemen. Rather than tell Curry it was Hoover's rage, Shanklin was instructed to keep telling Curry "we (FBI) just don't have the manpower to take on additional training commitments at this time," according to FBI documents.

The cessation of FBI training as-

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